

Overview of the Missouri Assessment Program-Alternates (MAP-A)

The Missouri Assessment Program-Alternates (MAP-A) design for the 2006-2007 school year consists of a performance-based assessment that promotes enhanced capabilities and integrated life opportunities for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Capturing evidence of student learning serves as the basic building block of the MAP-A. The MAP-A design expands the functional focus to combine general education academic and essential skills in a meaningful way for students. Teachers will collect data and student work to assess the student's accuracy and independence. The collected evidence provides documentation to ensure that there is a connection between the Show-Me Standards and instruction. It is expected that no more than one percent of the total district enrollment at a specific grade level will participate in the MAP-A.

The MAP-A design is not based upon the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Rather, it is directly connected to the Show-Me Standards through the Alternate Grade Level Expectations (AGLEs) and the Alternate Curriculum Framework. To access information on the AGLEs, go to the MAP-A section of the DESE Assessment website by clicking on the following link: <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/mapa.html>.

The MAP-A assesses information about a student's knowledge and skills in Communication Arts and Mathematics. Student performance is assessed on Alternate Performance Indicators (APIs) in each content area. APIs can be found in each column of the AGLEs in the link above. Teachers will observe and assess a student's performance and collect evidence in each content area during two distinct collection periods. The assessment will be scored on the following three criteria: Level of Accuracy, Level of Independence, and Connection to the Standards. All three of these criteria will generate a single achievement level and will be integrated into the district's overall accountability scores. For example, students who score proficient on the MAP-A will be integrated into the proficient level for the district's accountability report.

The Spring 2007 MAP-A assessment period will span two months. The assessment period will be January 8 – March 2nd. All MAP-A portfolios must be sent via UPS to ARC by March 12, 2007. The MAP-A will be required for eligible children in grades three through eight in both Communication Arts and Mathematics. In addition, the MAP-A Mathematics assessment will be required at grade 10 and the MAP-A Communication Arts assessment at grade 11.

The MAP-A is:

- required by federal law,
- designed only for students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet age and participation criteria,
- administered at the same grade levels as students participating in Missouri's general assessment,
- an assessment that evaluates student performance on APIs in each content area,
- scored using a MAP-A Scoring Rubric to obtain student performance levels which are then used to determine reportable scores, and
- reflective of input from the instructional team (such as members of the IEP team, teachers, physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, paraprofessionals, job coaches, parents or guardians, and the student, if appropriate).

Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) staff members responsible for training teachers in their region have been trained and regional trainings on the MAP-A for teachers will be in September and October. All materials associated with the MAP-A will be provided at these trainings.

For further information on the MAP-A, watch for updates on the DESE website.